

# Staffordshire Children's Trust 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference



**Gill Stanford**  
**Commissioner for Children**



# Why?

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Care Matters White Paper.....



# My role

- Independent
- Voice of children and young people
- Staffordshire's Children's Trust
- Culture of participation
- Strategies and Coordination
- Relevant Meetings



# Participation: why bother?

- Children and young people's right (Article 12)
- Better services
- Stronger democracy and local communities
- Benefits to children and young people
- It leads to change
- We have to!

*of course, children and young people also have the right not to get involved if they wish*



# Involving children & young people

- Children & Young People's Plan
- Shadow Trust Board (VIA)
- Children & Young People's Participation Network, representing: children in care, connexions, care leavers, youth service, travelling children, health, teenage parents, district councils, arts & leisure, consumer services, guides & scouts, children's fund, minority ethnic groups, young offenders, drugs & alcohol services, young carers.....



# Involving children & young people

- Framework for Participation/Hear by Right
- Children in Prison and their transportation
- Employment of young people
- ASBO's, Mosquitoes & Section 30's
- 11 MILLION and Takeover day
- Big 'Bruvver'!



# 'Big Bruvver' ...

- Views often sought in traditional way
- 'Big Bruvver' – current/topical
- Operates when and where the young people are
- **Objectives:**
  - To be inclusive & broaden participation
  - 'Hard to reach' = those 'hanging about' on the street
  - Views about local services/gaps
  - Trial something different
  - Raise awareness for this particular group
  - Improve facilities locally



# 'Big Bruvver' methodology

- Partnership project, multi agency
- Fire service mobile incident unit – 'big bruvver bus', experienced staff
- Signed consent
- One minute!
- No prompting



# 'Big Bruvver' findings:

- Nowhere to go, nothing to do
- Lack of facilities for older teens
- Section 30 – high impact on young people
- Leisure – costly, short in supply & variety
- Public transport – availability & price
- More youth clubs
- More places to chill; well lit/safe/warm
- Friday & Saturday nights!



# 'Big Bruvver' conclusion

- Integrated approach benefits all partner agencies
- Cost effective
- Innovation shows that the 'hard to reach' aren't!
- Graphic representation of young people's views
- Rolled out Countywide
- **Outcomes?**
  - No renewal of Section 30
  - Improved facilities
  - Speed dating/Top two priorities
  - Future challenges



- Children and Young People's Plan
  - VIA! Voices Into Action!



# Contact Details:

**Gill Stanford,**

**Commissioner for Children**

C/o Children & Lifelong Learning,

Vulnerable Children's Directorate

Wedgwood Building, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH

Direct: 01785 277060

Mobile: 0777 37 92040

[www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/commissioner](http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/commissioner)



**Staffordshire Children's Trust**  
Working together to improve the lives of children and young people

[www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk](http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk)